

Opening Hymn

302 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
 King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
 King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
 bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
 gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
 trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
 jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
 sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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Stand



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



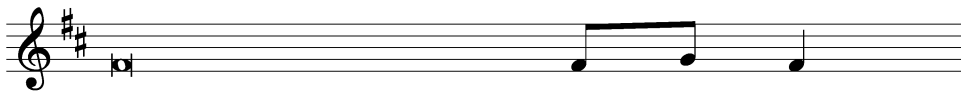
General Jesus Christ is Lord of all:



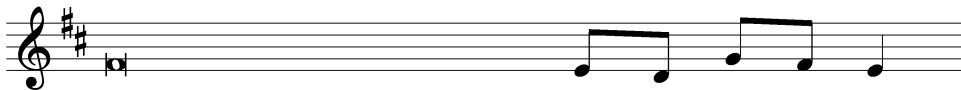
praise and thanks to God!

O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord *Venite*

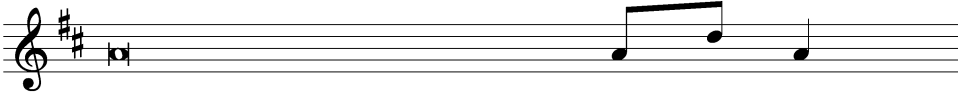
CW 208



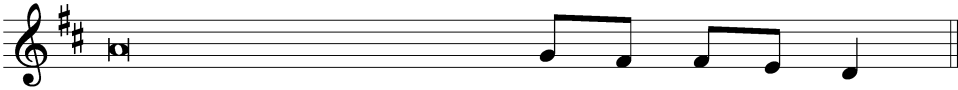
1 O come, let us sing	to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a	great God
3 The sea is his, for he	made it,



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of	our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great	king a - bove all gods.
3 and his hand	formed the dry land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow _____ down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

- ¹A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.
- ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.
- ⁵Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.
- ⁶The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,

and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear will graze together,
and their young ones will lie down together.

The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

⁸The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

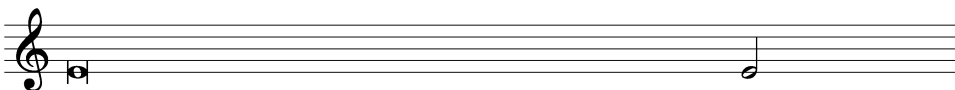
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

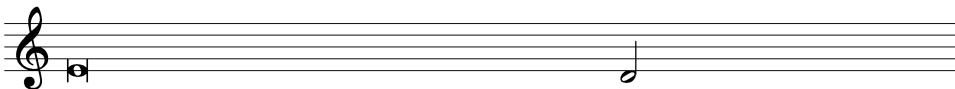
Psalm 130

Sung by the Choir

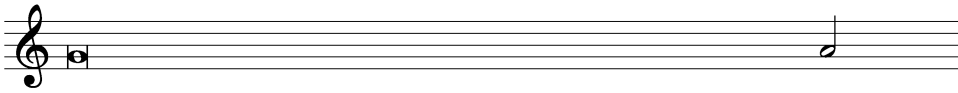
De Profundis



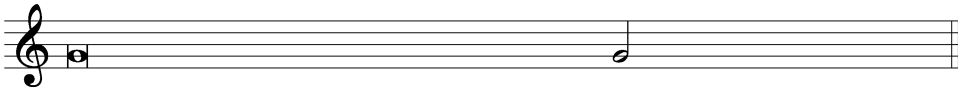
1	Out of the depths have I cried unto you, O	LORD;
2	If you, LORD, should mark in	iquities,
3	I wait for the LORD, my soul	waits,
4	Let Israel hope in the LORD, for with the LORD there is	mercy,
5	Glory be to the Father and to the	Son



1	Lord, hear my	voice.
2	O Lord, who shall	stand?
3	and in his word do I	hope.
4	and with him is plenteous re	demption.
5	and to the Holy	Spirit,



- 1 Let your ears be at - tentive
- 2 But there is forgiveness with you,
- 3 My soul waits for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning,
- 4 And he shall redeem Israel
- 5 **as it was in the be** - **ginning,**



- 1 to the voice of my suppli - cations.
- 2 that you may be feared.
- 3 I say, more than they that watch for the morning.
- 4 from all its in - iquities.
- 5 **is now, and will be forever. A** - **men.**

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹²And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 325 My Soul in Stillness Waits

Congregation sings the refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re-
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.
whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
us the path-way of your peace.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ²“Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

⁴John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

316 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry



1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - ’ry life from sin and fur - nished
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

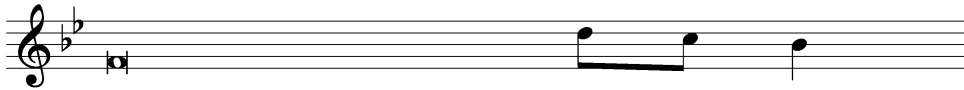
Matthew 3:1–12

“Prepare the Way for the Lord”

Stand

We Praise You, O God *Te Deum laudamus*

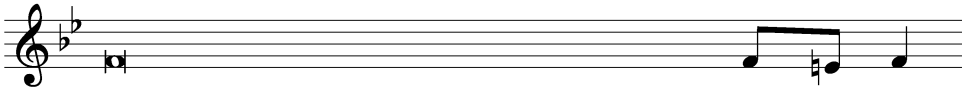
CW 210



1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise — you.



1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full — of your glo - ry.
 3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



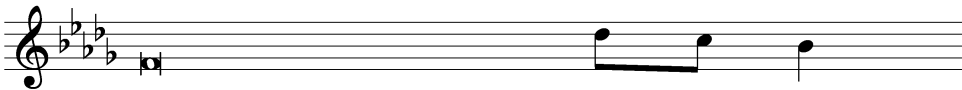
1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
2 The glorious company of apostles praise you.
3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



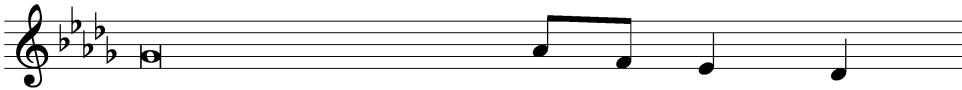
1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise you.
3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



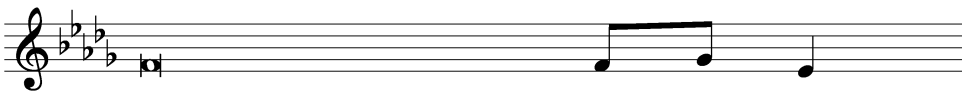
4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



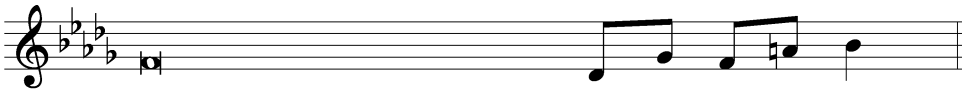
5 When you became man to set us free,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



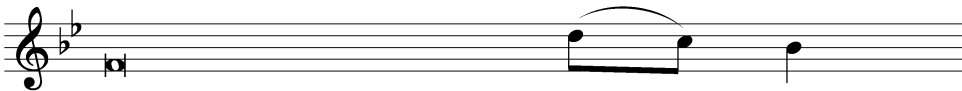
5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 You overcame the sting of death
6 We believe that you will come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,



7 bought with the price of your own blood,



7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213



Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an - swer me.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Prayers of intercession, and seasonal prayers may follow, concluding with the following prayer:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

309 The Advent of Our King

CW 309



- 1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day
let sin's dark deeds be gone,
the old self all be put away,
the new self now put on.
- 6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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